

MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008, 2:00 P.M.
Room W020, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present: Sen. Greg Bell, Co-Chair
 Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, Co-Chair
 Sen. Brent Goodfellow
 Rep. Mel Brown
 Rep. Brad Daw
 Rep. John Dougall
 Rep. Kay McIff
 Rep. Curt Webb
 Rep. Chris Johnson
 Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
 Rep. LaWanna “Lou” Shurtliff

Members Absent: Sen. Curtis Bramble
 Sen. Dan Eastman
 Rep. Ron Bigelow
 Rep. David Clark

Staff Present: Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager
 Karen C. Allred, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Scott Wyatt, President, Snow College
 Lee Caldwell, President, Dixie State College

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. Call to Order—Committee Co-Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

Rep. Shurtliff introduced and welcomed Weber State Emeriti and Alumni, and acknowledged Pat Larsen and Ed Allen, past legislators.

Rep. Holdaway welcomed Bonnie Jean Beasley from the Board of Regents, Pres. Caldwell, Pres. Wyatt, and other university presidents.

Co-Chair Bell resumed the chair.

2. **Institutional Presentations:**

Snow College

Scott Wyatt, President, Snow College introduced Rick Wheeler, Vice President, Snow College and Marvin Dodge, Vice President of Finance, Snow College. Pres. Wyatt showed slides to the committee, of pictures that he took at the rededication of the State Capitol. He then presented a slide show introducing part of the faculty at Snow College. Snow College was formerly an LDS Church School, named for Lorenzo and Erastus Snow. It is now a State College with top of the line, PhD faculty teaching freshman and sophomores. Seven of the last 10 engineering valedictorians at USU were Snow graduates. Students learn better from the best faculty. The highest priority for Snow College is compensation. Forty-three percent of the faculty with PhD degrees at Snow, could go to

work in local school districts and make more money. The faculty has been left out and they need help. Morale is being affected. A handout was given to the committee chairs showing the salary comparisons.

The Sevier Valley Center is the future of Richfield. It houses the Allied Health Center. A wing of that center is owned by the school district and they want to sell it to Snow College. Snow thinks they may have a private donor to match State funds. The students at Snow will use this wing and its services in their studies. Snow College is the only higher education facility in the nation that has a partnership with Juliard School of Music. A teacher from Juliard comes to Snow and teaches the students. This program will be expanded to dance and theater. Snow is the only 2-year college with an accredited music and theater departments. Snow has a higher percent of students involved and engaged at Snow than anywhere else. Pres. Wyatt expressed gratitude to the committee for the USU partnership and the library that was funded last year. The financial requests of Snow College for FY09 are USHE Initiatives, salaries, institutional priorities, Rural Utah Initiative, and the Sevier Valley Center bond (the proposal to pay off this debt will free up funds to invest in Snow's nursing program). Snow College is located five or 6 miles from the dead center point of Utah. The six-county region has the lowest per capita income in Utah, and 25% of the students from this area are first generation college students.

Dixie College

Lee Caldwell, President, Dixie College, explained to the committee about the community around Dixie College. An economic study from the Bureau of Economic Research was done about Washington County. Washington County has been the southwest region's engine of growth since 1970, with 6.1% average annual growth from 1970 to 2001. Regional employment is driven by the growth of Washington County. Two of every three jobs in the region are in Washington County. The economy has moved from agricultural/tourism to retirement/tourism. Employment changes have occurred with growth in professional and business, education and health services, and local government services. The challenges at Dixie College are that Washington County's strong job growth has required massive county in-migration, giving jobs to people out of state. The large nursing program at the Mojave Community College, is attended mostly by Utah residents without having to pay out of state tuition. Most of our graduate offerings are being met by the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where they only have to pay \$100 out-of-state tuition. The population of people with bachelors degrees is low, and the working age of the Washington County workforce is poorly prepared with 24% of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or more. Counties the size of Washington County typically have 40-50 bachelor degree and 12 Master programs. Dixie awards bachelor degrees at 25% of the state rate of the areas with a population the size of Washington County. Since 73% of Washington County students enrolled in Utah System of Higher Education institutions attend Dixie, it is safe to assume that the County will continue to suffer unless something drastic is done. The proposed affiliation with the University of Utah is a well-established model in other states for expanding quality educational offerings in rapidly growing areas where opportunity has not kept up. This partnership will help Dixie with its Health Science Studies, upgrading of credentials in health care professions, as well as Special Education programs. Washington County must have adequate higher education opportunities. Arizona and Nevada are doing a better job of ignoring state lines and focusing on regional economic and education development. There was considerable discussion from the committee on the proposed partnership with the U of U and ignoring state lines for out-of-state tuition.

3. **Historical Funding (Issue Brief USHE -- 16)**

The object of this Issue Brief is to provide information as to the historical trends in the funding of higher education, along with the implications of those changes. The funding of higher education in Utah has changed considerably over the past 20 years. In 1985, State tax funds on average, provided support for 76.3 percent of higher education costs with tuition picking up the balance. In FY 2008, the State support was 65.1 percent. There is a chart showing State funding for higher education FY 1985 to FY 2007 on page 33 of the Budget Book.

4. **Tuition (Issue Brief USHE -- 17)**

This Issue Brief provides comparative information of tuition levels and historical tuition increases. With the exception of 1996-97, tuition rates have increased annually for the past 15 years. A discussion and Table of tuition comparisons by each Utah institution as well as WICHE and Rocky Mountain States are found on page 35-51 of the Budget Book.

5. **Mission, Enrollment, & Funding (Issue Brief USHE -- 18)**

Funding of institutions of higher education is determined in large part by two factors: the institution's missions and the number of students attending. Over time, both of these factors can change, resulting in changes in the funding levels. Information regarding the individual institutions and the enrollments, changes, and the impacts these changes have on the funding levels of the institutions is discussed in Issue Brief 18 on pages 53-62 of the Budget Book.

6. **NCSL Report (Issue Brief USHE -- 19)**

During the 2007 NCSL annual meeting in Boston, the opening plenary discussion dealt with higher education issues and how to transform higher education in the future. Another session continued the discussion on how to improve higher education. The discussion and summary of these meetings are on page 63 of the Budget Book.

7. **Personal Services Budgeting Audit Follow-up (Issue Brief USHE -- 20)**

In July 2007, the Legislative Auditor General released Audit 2007-11. The audit looked at how personal services are accounted for, and what improvements should be made to give the Legislature more accurate information. The audit report made several recommendations. Issue Brief 20 on page 65 of the Budget Book explains the responses to the recommendations and how those will be implemented in the budgeting process.

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to adjourn.

Committee Co-Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.

Minutes were reported by Karen C. Allred, Secretary.